

Washington, DC – On Thursday, Harry Teague announced new police officers for Alamogordo, Artesia and Hobbs that will help grow the force keeping southern New Mexico communities safe. The additional officers were secured through the Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program (CHP) that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new and/or rehire career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

"At a time when many law enforcement agencies are struggling with budget cuts, these new officers will help ensure our communities stay safe," said Harry Teague. "Helping our police departments create jobs not only boosts the economy, it also helps them better protect our communities."

The CHP grants will provide three years of 100 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off--or are scheduled to be laid off--as a result of local budget cuts. The funding for southern New Mexico will allow for the creation of five additional officers positions throughout the three communities.

For more information, visit the COPS website at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov) .

The breakdown of funds by entity is as follows:

City	Officers Awarded	Award Amount
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Alamogordo Department of Public Safety	1	\$174,867
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Artesia Police Department	1	\$188,771
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Hobbs Police Department	3	\$734,088
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